

CHAIRSHOTS

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"...(A) BRUTAL LITTLE PIECE OF CRAP RAG..."

...MARK MADDEN-PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/PRO WRESTLING TORCH COLUMNIST

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SHOOTKICK

by Jeff Bowdren

"MAKE IT GOOD...."-a certain Mr. Virgil Riley Runnels... somewhere in North Carolina during the late '80's....

I'll admit it. I love those programs like "Cops", "America's Most Wanted", and "Rescue 911". You know, the ones that are called "reality television". Television, Marshall McLuhan's "vast wasteland", gives the viewer an immediate fix and those of us with a morbid curiosity for what is "real" eagerly grab it. Pro wrestling, despite Bruno Sammartino's protestations, is not real. Which is why doing an angle based on reality is a calculated risk. A big shootkick to Smoky Mountain for its recent rash of reality based angles, including Tony Anthony using the old plastic baggie on Tracey Smothers, and Smothers getting into an altercation with Brian Lee & Tammy Fytch (on camera of course) in a used car lot.

Sometimes a touch of reality works. One of my favorite wrestling moments was in 1987, when Riki Choshu, who was "banned from t.v.", appeared in the crowd as a spectator during a New Japan card and reached out and slapped longtime rival Tatsumi Fujinami. Choshu "technically" wasn't in New Japan yet, so ~~to~~ the average fan, it was a wrestler from one promotion crossing promotional lines, much as Jake Roberts did last year in Baltimore. New Japan had a great run from '86 to '88 with the premise that Akira Maeda, Nobuhiko Takada and the rest of the UWF guys were "real". Those were good reality based angles. But for every one of those we also have Fritz's heart attack, the above mentioned parking lot attack or the now infamous "attempted murder" of Sting & Davey Boy by Vader, Fuller, Race, Sid and an evil dwarf. The last three I've mentioned are just a few examples of "bad reality t.v.". (Sort of like one of those "Faces of Death" videos)

Let's take a look at Smoky Mountain's latest reality based angle. Here's Tracey Smothers attempting to do an ad for a car lot, and despite the countless interviews that Tracey has done over the course of his wrestling career, he comes off like someone in desperate need of advanced speech therapy. The car salesman sounds positively literate compared to Tracey! Oh wait, I forgot. Tracey's a humble, soft spoken southern guy. Now, "out of nowhere" comes Brian Lee (much better in this role) and Tammy (spell it with a capital 'B'-that's a great line) Fytch. There's the inevitable verbal altercation wherein Tracey calls into question Tammy's familiarity with the backseats of certain American-made automobiles. Now, as some of you may know, I work at the Broward County (Ft. Lauderdale) Courthouse as an in-court clerk in misdemeanor court. Allow me to examine what happens next from the perspective of someone who sees the following charges everyday. Tammy, in a rage at having her chastity called into question, slaps Tracey. (That's misdemeanor battery-1st time offender: 6 mos probation and counseling with a spousal abuse program and court costs) Tracey, his southern manhood now open to question after having a woman slap him, does what any man would do in that situation. He slugs Brian. (At this point, if he was lucky, Tracey could have got away with no probation, some court costs and possibly no harmful contact with the victim) Brian fights back and there's some pushing and shoving (possible charge of disorderly conduct-court costs or maybe some community service) and then Smothers is thrown on the hood of one of the cars (was Howard Finkel in town?) in the proverbial prone position. Lee picks up the dreaded steel pipe, you know the one they always have lying around on the used car lot, and swings at Smothers. Well, Tracey moves just in time, (almost as if it were planned!) and Lee shatters the windshield of the car. (We're looking at aggravated assault-that's a felony conviction-for a first time offender possibly about 3 to 4 years in state prison-restitution to the car dealer for the windshield-a couple of years probation, etc) By the way, I'm not even mentioning that all this was captured on video, which could do nothing for the defense.

Now, I realize to some of you this may be a lot of technical mumbo jumbo, but the point is that "reality" angles should take into account how ridiculous they become sometimes. We live in a more sophisticated society these days, one that perhaps can't comprehend.... "Don't arrest him, I want to settle this in the ring". I think in the proper context the angle that appears "real" can be very effective, but when they go overboard it borders on the absurd. I am outta hereeeeeeeeeee.....

ARENA RAMBLINGS

BY RON LEMIEUX

"Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends. We're so glad you could attend, come inside, come inside." ...SummerSlam ended just minutes ago and I have to say it was the best PPV I've seen in a while. Only 2 bouts under two stars those being Ludvig Borga beating Marty Jannetty and Undertaker over Giant Gonzales with the highlight being the returning Paul Bearer clotheslining Harvey Whippleman. I'll leave the details and results to The Observer and The Torch, I'll just mention my highlights: Lots of great WWF memories that Ted DiBiase leaves me as he looked at the lights one more time for Razor Ramon...The absolute hot **** match the Steiners had with the Heavenly Bodies. Jimmy Backlund finally showcased his stuff on a national level. This match had the best false finish in ages when Cornette laid out Rick with the racquet...I felt bad for Perfect and Michaels having to follow that tag but after a couple of Michaels wild bumps I was into this one as well. ...Doesn't new announcer Joe Fowler sound like Ray Rougeau with a high pitched voice?...First shock of the night: I.R.S. pinning 1-2-3 Kid. What gives?... Tell me the Lawler-Hart-Doink angle wasn't the work of a genius. I was pissed when I saw Lawler on crutches but ecstatic after he interfered in the bout that the officials made him wrestle Bret afterwards in a great brawl. ****½ for the whole deal. Does the WWF make anyone work harder than Bret Hart oh these shows?...Hilarious that they had Japanese photographer Jimmy Suzuki sing the Japanese national anthem... Does Aaron Neville have bigger guns than Hulk Hogan?...Second shock of the night: Lex Luger beating Yokozuna via count out so he does not win the WWF title. I love it. That Luger video is first class...Thumbs up on the show. Hart-Lawler best match and Taker-Gonzales was worst....Cleaning Out The Notebook: I was waiting for Jeff Jarrett to interfere in the Lawler-Hart bout as he is skedded to come in as Jerry's tag partner....Lawler had beaten Hart in a cage match the night before SS in Memphis.....WHAT YOU DIDN'T SEE AT THE CLASH: First to all you guys ribbing us (Klon, Chris Qualmann, Paul Spiegel, and myself) for being on camera almost as much as Schivone and Jesse. Hey, we were just having fun...Before they went on the air, Gary Cappetta told the audience to "show us your signs". Cappetta acted like this was done to see who had the best ones when in fact Doug Dillenger was looking for ones they didn't want on the air. They pulled one that said, "Pillman is a fag". But missed one that said, "LEX"....Other sightings: Jim Neidhart, Kevin Sullivan, and Nancy in the back visiting. Neidhart probably looking for work while Kevin and Nancy live in Daytona so they were just visiting...Dusty Rhodes walking in the back with use of a cane...An always paranoid WCW Main Event ring announcer and TV jobber recruiter Dave Penzer seeing me in the back and saying, "Oh, I can't be seen talking to you."...The look on event coordinator Chip Burnham's face when I walked in the back with my WCW Crew pass on...The smile on ref (and fellow "Chairshots" columnist) Jimmy Berkley's face as he was about to ref the Flair-Sting tag bout...Geriatric night at the Daytona Marriott bar afterwards as Doug Dillenger and Jackie Crockett were making out with two of the youngest rats you'll ever see. That's how scandals are born.....

Reports on the Smoking Gunns pulling a rib on 1-2-3 Kid by shaving his eyebrows were erroneous. Who was the culprit? Here's a hint: It was the "Perfect" rib....The only response I have to Mark Madden's comments in the recent Torch is this. Dave Meltzer would have never accepted Ole's challenge so that point is moot. He also wouldn't have wasted a whole page (again) on the Ole fiasco. No matter. It helped my insomnia. Since "Chairshots" is Barry's newsletter and not mine which you insinuated, I'll let him answer the rest if he wishes. Seems to me a real "journalist" would have gotten his facts straight about that one....WCW debuted at the UCF Arena in Orlando on 8/22 with a lackluster card. The line-up on paper was okay but the matches didn't click. Nasty Boys beat Scorpio and Bagwell in a very disappointing * opener. Then 2 miscarriages of justice back to back as Erik Watts beat Chris Benoit and Charlie Norris defeated Bobby Eaton. As Benoit was going back to the dressing room, Chris told him he doesn't deserve this garbage and he should just work Japan. Guess Benoit took it as an insult as he yelled back to Qualmann, "Yeah? Why don't you go back to flipping burgers.". Equalizer beat Frankie Lancaster in probably the worst match for me of the year. Dustin over Rude 2 out of three last one DQ in a ** affair. Sting & Davey Boy over Sid and Vader. ** And Flair over Orndorff in a **** bout.....Amazing that on World Wide this weekend they didn't edit the Typhoon blooper of the decade. I was told that they are changing Ottman's gimmick to "Fred the Klutz". I'm not making that up although I find it hard to believe....Interesting and coincidental (sure) that the Power Hour flashback was Dusty beating Luger for the US title. All it showed was Dusty offense....How times have changed. Circa Wrestling Observer April 28, 1986- "Main event is a 6 man tag with Brody-Nord-Zhukov vs. Greg Gagne and his 2 mystery partners, Sgt. Slaughter and Leon White. Putting White that high keeps people away so the show should bomb."..... That will do it for now. For our friends in North Carolina we'll be thinking about you as Emily comes ashore. See ya,

Ron

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Sucker Punch

BY BARRY ROSE



"WRESTLING REBOUNDED" in Alex Marvez's grap column in the Miami Herald, "A WEEK OF RECORD HIGHS, A TREND OR A FLUKE", trumpeted Wade Keller, and The Observer certainly devoted enough space in the August 30 issue to the fact that the American wrestling scene may have just awakened from its coma. WCW, still proving that they are the Kings Of Lame with The Schlockmaster, had their highest rated Clash Of The Champions in almost two years. The Ric Flair-Sting NWA World Title match, which aired on WCW Saturday night just three days later, drew well over two million (you read that right) viewers, more than double the average audience. The WWF, whom many are crediting with the popularization of wrestling once again, held record houses in two cities, Madison Square Garden (NYC) and in Anaheim, Cal. The Garden show drew over 13,000 fans, the largest draw for the WWF in that building in long time. The Anaheim show drew 15,000, no doubt leaving Vince as excited as a 9 year old school-girl during recess. The Mexican based AAA drew a reported 16,000 fans on August 28, pulling in over a quarter of a million dollars in receipts. Smoky Mountain also set a record on August 20 drawing almost 2,800 fans and over \$18,000. USWA also has been drawing lately, with figures reminiscent of the early to mid eighties. What does all of this mean? Is, as Wade Keller so astutely put it, simply a fluke, or is it here to stay? In the case of the WWF, currently under investigation by the Justice Department, creative booking and inventive angles could certainly be the leading cause in the upward trend. After years of being in the public eye more predominately than any other US wrestling group, they appear to have finally found the secret to promoting a product that appeals to both the hardcore and mark audience. WCW, on the other hand, still shows not enough follow through to be able to change enough minds. The Schlockmaster notwithstanding, more mistakes are made every day. Did you watch the Clash replay? If you did then you saw Van Hammer challenging opponents to meet him on WCW Sat. Night. What about Harlem Heat being pushed as being in the WARGAMES before they had even wrestled a match on the company's premier show? That old adage about too many chiefs certainly comes into play with this situation. Smoky Mountain and the USWA, both offering new and original ideas, should flourish in the months to come, and both have benefitted from their association with the WWF. The Steiner brothers are headed into SMW in October, and rumors of Yokozuna abound. Memphis is seeing many of the WWF's top draws, such as 1-2-3 Kid, Luger, and 'Zuna. Even a more brighter future is held by The AAA in Los Angeles. The 16,000 that saw Jake Roberts-Konaan-Cien Caras match were lucky. Apparently, over 15,000 were turned away. They have planned events sometime in November, and with figures like the ones above, it's easy to see why. Hopefully, the newfound increased popularity is here to stay. If not, its back to Japanese videos for many hardcores, and saturday morning cartoons for the rest.

Well, the inept Mark Madden finally acknowledged us in a recent Torch. As I understand it, Mark, looking less like perenial TBS job boy Tony Zane AND MORE like a disciple of Kevin Sullivan with the recent addition of facial hair, has never seen a complete issue of CHAIRSHOTS. Word has leaked out that an unnamed employee of the North Carolina school system reads Mark any juicy comments about him, further lowering his already low self esteem. The way Mark worded his paragraph about us made it seem like Rugged Ron Lemieux was doing this sheet. WRONGO-O, Budweiser breath! I put countless hours (okay, maybe five) a month into this baby, so I want full credit as the editor (ahem!). Everyone, and I mean everyone, knows that Ron retired from putting out a sheet to make more babies with his wife and hang out with Jimmy Berkley, Chris Quaalman, Klon and countless others at places where Mark is thrown out of all the time (strip clubs-what else did you think?). Secondly, Mark made it appear as if Ole "Excuse me, my bran muffin just kicked in" Anderson was criticizing US on the WCW hotline. Anderson mentioned the Observer, Torch, Meltzer, but never once even alluded to us!! Talk about misinforming YOUR readers, Mark! I think the "All grown up" Brian Tramel said it best when he said "Can you believe that Madden is trying to represent the smart community?" In closing, Mark, you stick to reporting jr. high school hockey games and challenging guys you know will never fight you, and leave the wrestling business to us. By the way, Bruno says hi!

SID WATCH '93: The old Sid meister is at it again. Known for calling out spots so loud that people in the Swiss Alps have been known to yodel back (the WARGAMES from a couple of years ago is an example), Sid once again proved he still doesn't understand the business on WCW's August 21 Sat. Night show. After jumping in the ring at the end of the Ric Flair-Sting title match, Sid screamed DOUBLE CLOTHESLINE in plain view of the camera and so loud that Ted Turner was seen on his ranch sticking his fingers in his ears. Well, lo and behold, 15 seconds later Flair and the Stinger delivered a feeble looking double clothesline. I hate to use the over exposed phrase "exposing the business", but somebodies got to give this slug a hearing test to see if hes deaf before he embarrasses himself or the company again.

THE OFFICIAL CHAIRSHOTS GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE DEPT:

We've given the Torch plenty of grief in the pages of CS, but their new "look" puts them in a category all of their own. This in addition to some really great columns by Chris Zavisa in the last couple of months (the Bento Box analogy and the one on handheld videocameras spring to mind) may push the Torch's subscriber base even higher. And while I'm handing out compliments, let me say a couple of nice words about Dave Prazak's Outside Interference, featuring columns by Matt Creamer, Gabe Daigle, and Dave himself. No shilling for the PWA or Paul E.'s new group in here. Just straight intelligent writing and unbiased reporting. Write Dave at 2278 Hidden Creek Ct., Lisle, IL, 60532. Tell 'em CHAIRSHOTS sent you. And lastly this issue a special thanks to Sheldon Goldberg for the positive and generous comments about us in a recent Mat Marketplace. MM is a must see for collectors of any wrestling memorabilia, from videos to wrestling boots, and features reports on all of the fan conventions that take place around the country. Write them at PO Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. Well, that about wraps it up for me this month. See ya in a couple of weeks. I'm outta here!!

NERVE ENDINGS

BY PETE LEDERBERG

Blackheart Apocalypse (Tom Nash) Interview Part 2

PL: What are your feelings on the USWA?

TN: I like Memphis a lot. It's a good territory. If I wouldn't have had problems with my car, which is another story in itself (PL: Oh Jesus, I just figured out what you're talking about), we'd probably still be there. We were hoping to wrestle the Moondogs for the belts and also Lawler and Jarrett. We wrestled Lawler and Jarrett a few times in battle royals, but didn't actually wrestle them in a tag match. I loved wrestling Jeff Jarrett, he's kind of like Bobby Eaton used to be, the most underrated guy around.

PL: How about Tri-State?

TN: I wish Goodhart's promotion would have lasted longer it was a lot of fun. Right idea, not enough money. It was great working on shows with Eddie Gilbert, Kevin Sullivan and Steve Williams, among others. A lot of people probably look at Kevin Sullivan's wife Nancy as being a really hot little sex symbol or something, me included, but also she's really cool, and I really enjoyed meeting her and Kevin. Tri-State had great crowds. The smart fans bothered some wrestlers, but I liked them, they were probably heel fans anyway.

PL: What was the deal in WCW; how come they didn't let you guys do a total squash match for example?

TN: Bill Dundee told us that we wrestle like the Steiners or The Road Warriors and no one wants to see shit like that any more. He said people just want to see wrestling. The funny thing is the Road Warriors are there now, and I told Dundee at the time that maybe if the Road Warriors and Steiners were there, maybe they would have a decent crowd. It's also funny coming from Dundee, because all I've ever seen him do is punch, I've never seen him wrestle. I personally believe to make an attempt to get over when you're new to a territory you need to come in and probably destroy a few guys to make an impact. Compare it to going to movies today, if you had a John Wayne movie or Arnold Schwarzenegger movie, maybe you'd have 5 old people glued to the screen for the John Wayne movie, but the Schwarzenegger movie would sell out. It's the 90's, people blame overexposure for the business faltering, but with all the choices they have, they can watch HBO, Showtime, The Playboy channel, pay per view, etc., you have to do something exciting to grab their attention. It's not like the old days where TBS was one of their only choices.

PL: Are you still there?

TN: After our match with the Cole twins was a complete fucking travesty, and set the wrestling business back ten years, we weren't on tv, but we were on house shows in Indiana, Tennessee and anywhere else that no one knew there was a show. And on the road we had some decent little matches with the Cole twins. Then all of a sudden we weren't on any booking sheets, and the funny thing is we're still getting booking sheets two months later and that's probably par for the course with this company. I don't think everything we did looked that bad, in this business you don't know if you did something wrong until they tell you so, it's really hard to know what they want with ten different people telling you what they want. I also thought our first tv match was a good match (PL and entrance) but they never let us wrestle our style even then. I don't know why we're gone, and I sure don't give a shit.

PL: I've heard that they wanted to bring in cheaper "talent".

TN: I don't know if that's a compliment or not (we both laughed). They got rid of Neidhart too, and they never really gave him a chance. He's a great guy.

PL: I also heard that they were purposely putting the Cole twins on those "B" shows so they could get some much needed experience, then use the natural gimmick of masked guys versus twins on the bigger shows.

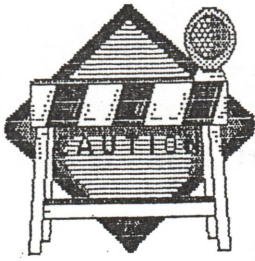
TN: Those were B shows? No one told me that, I thought they were D shows. I don't know what the actual intentions were, I didn't mind wrestling against the Cole Twins.

PL: I saw that the "New Blackhearts" wrestled on a show for Herb Abrams in the Dakotas somewhere. Do you know anything about this?

TN: They must be the new and improved Blackhearts, because we're the New Blackhearts and we didn't work for that little prick. They must have had a new and improved sticker on the side of their black masks. And being the honest and loyal little prick that we all know Herb Abrams is, I'm sure I'll be receiving a royalty check for him using my gimmick without my permission. (PL: I'm sure it would bounce anyway). What a wonderful business.

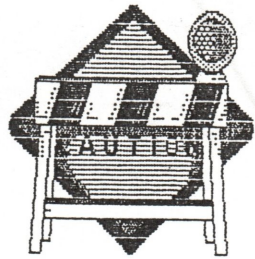
PL: What are you planning to do now?

TN: I have some upcoming dates for Dennis Carluccio in October. After that, who gives a shit. I may retire, or may just not have any work. I must be quitting, because I'm not getting any silver watch.



THE RAZOR'S EDGE

By Jimmy Berkley



Question? What recent show featured a scorpio, a bull dog, a Lil Richard impersonator, some horsemen, a cowboy, a playboy a Shaquille Master, a few musclemen and...oh yeah, a "former referee" of days gone past. Answer? The WCW Clash at Daytona! My reffing a few bouts at the Clash was in limbo for a few fleeting seconds when a determination had to be made if a "former referee" could work that night, especially the tag bout with Flair/Sting. However, upon final approval and the denial of having the insider totem pole up my ass, I was given the okay. Thankfully, these issues didn't come up when I worked the MGM tapings that began airing this past weekend. Thank you K. Flouride of the DKLA for helping me keep myself in check.

The Clash got a great share rating, provided good wrestling and entertainment plus surprises. I am pleased for WCW and even if I'm in the minority, things seem to be looking up. Sure, the WCW bashers still have loads of ammo to use like top heavy contracts, the slip n fall incident at Flare For The Gold, too many chiefs, etc. but WCW ignored what was said (even in this sheet) about Hawk's non-participation and went ahead and featured him plus they threw in Animal for kicks. What the hell, right? I honestly feel this company has the very best collection of wrestling minds, experience and talented workers. The advantage WCW has vs. WWF is cash flow. This is evidenced by Turner Broadcasting Systems aquisitions in the last few weeks such as Castle Rock Entertainment. If you lay out several million bucks in cash for something, the concerns of a smaller subsidiary and it's current inability to generate a favorable P & L statement are not what alot make them out to be. On the other hand, Vince is responsible only to the Titan name, has no outside investors I've heard of and claims no alternative cash cow to milk from in hard times. I'm not knocking Vince either. Love 'em or hate 'em, you must admit he's brilliant and nothing tops the Raw show at this time for excitement.

My loyalty to WCW in no way stems from my past, current or future dates with them but with a deep rooted pull since childhood of seeing the Superstation, Mid-Atlantic TV tapings and my Dad taking me to the Greenville Auditorium or the Asheville Civic Center to see the matches until I started driving myself to the towns. I recall begging my Dad to take us a few times when he didn't feel like it. Eventually, about 6:00 PM I would bullshit him by saying something like there's a big cage match with Flair/Valentine vs. Steamer/Youngblood which really wasn't there and then explaining they must have canceled it without saying. Of course he was still happy since Roddy Piper vs. Dick Slater tore the house down. Amazing, that match drew money then but wouldn't draw shit today. Yep, the ECW or SMW are the new darlings of the sheets but when I think of wrestling how it used to be and how I like it, a packed Omni with 14,000 screamers for a Rich vs. Sawyer cage match or the old Charlotte Coliseum with Flair vs. Wahoo comes to mind way before Pikeville, Kentucky.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HOTSPOTS

BY TIM WHITEHEAD

Welcome to the latest edition of Smoky Mountain Hotspots, the New York Times of pro wrestling journalism (All the News That's Fit to Print, and Then Some!). Where do I begin this month? How about a review of the FanWeek action? First, I'd like to thank all the fans who came out for the FanWeek tour from such distant spots as California and New York. It was great getting to meet some of the names I've seen in the letters pages of the various sheets over the years. Great seeing Dave Meltzer again, too. And Harry White was made an honorary member of the SMW Board of Commissioners, which I'm certain was the highlight of his historic career! As for the wrestling action, well, it was hot stuff. There's simply not enough room to mention everything that happened, so here are my selections as highlights:

- **Dirty White Boy vs. Bobby Blaze. Blaze continued to play 1-2-3 Kid to White Boy's Razor Ramon. A memorable launching pad for Blaze's career.
- **Tim Horner vs. Chris Candido. If you're going to do a gimmick match involving a baby bottle or a diaper, you should at least make the match a good one and the conclusion needs to be memorable. Candido's semi-naked romp back to the dressing room at the Knoxville Coliseum won't be easily forgotten.
- **Kevin Sullivan vs. Big Bossman. Hot brawls into the stands and up into the balconies. Just like the old days when a "tough guy" outsider was brought in to deal with a local heel who had gotten out of control.
- **Bruise Brothers vs. Rock & Roll Express. Solid matches, but nothing to write home about.
- **The Rage in the Cage. Held on 8/14 in Johnson City, this pitted Armstrong's Army vs. Cornette's Criminals. A good match (it's almost impossible to screw up a match with War Games rules) but a notch or two below prior bouts of this type.
- **Tracy Smothers vs. Brian Lee (and Tammy Fytch!). Very good matches and a meaningful angle as White Boy joined Lee in "injuring" Tracy's knee. This not only provided an excuse for Tracy's no-show in Knoxville, but set the stage for White Boy's emerging babyface turn. Incidentally, Tracy actually no-showed Knoxville since he's on tour with ALL JAPAN. SMW has a better record than most groups when it comes to false advertising, but as this incident shows, they ain't perfect! I should also mention that Tammy continued to shine as an arrogantly condescending society babe, arguing profusely with the ringside female fans (some of whom had teeth, others didn't).
- **Dirty White Boy to turn babyface. At the TV tapings in Clintwood, VA on 8/16, Ron Wright awarded the \$20,000 bounty for sidelining Tracy Smothers to Brian Lee. White Boy felt he had more to do with Tracy's injury than did Lee, hence the impending face turn. Is a Clean White Boy on the horizon?
- **Jim Cornette vs. Bob Armstrong. This was the match that brought out SMW's biggest crowd yet (2400 paid at the Knoxville Coliseum), and an awesome spectacle it was! Okay, so it wasn't the equivalent of Kobashi vs. Kawada at the Budokan in terms of workrate, but that simply wasn't the point. Even the most casual fans know Bob is far past his prime. And Cornette isn't an athlete at all. What these fans wanted to see was Cornette get what he had coming to him, and they got it! Bob slapped Cornette around unmercifully before finally drilling him with two massive piledrivers for the pin. An ambulance crew arrived and a bloody Cornette was stretchered out and taken to Baptist Hospital, just as Bob had promised. Several fans chased the ambulance to the hospital, insuring that things were on the up and up. When Bob got carted out of the Coliseum on a stretcher back in May, the fans were so silent (out of legit concern) that you could've heard a pin drop. But the same fans jeered Cornette and chanted 9-1-1 as Cornette took the ride. They really hate his guts, and Cornette couldn't be happier! By the way, Cornette will be doing some hilarious interviews from his sick bed on upcoming TV shows.

Prior to the Knoxville show, I dined at the Tomo Japanese Restaurant in the historic Old City, just a few blocks from the Coliseum. I point this out because A) the food is awesome, and you should give it a try if you're ever in town, B) the Japanese waitresses are adorable (one looks just like Plum Mariko from the JWP promotion), and C) I want to set a positive example by showing that not all wrestling fans hang out at strip joints (like certain Florida sheet writers) when they attend a wrestling card. At least not every time they attend a wrestling card.

And now for the WWF. Well, there's really not much to say that hasn't already been said about Cornette's Titan debut. When I first heard about it my initial reaction was negative, but I felt a lot better after actually viewing it on TV. The scene where Jim makes his surprise appearance and Bobby Heenan nearly falls over himself trying to get to him is a classic. When Vince began speaking favorably of SMW it should have become evident to everyone that Cornette has cut a deal with WWF from a position of strength. I wonder how Lawler & Jarrett feel every time SMW gets put over on WWF telecasts while USWA might just as well not exist as far as the Titan storyline goes. As with anything else in wrestling, or in life, only time will tell how things ultimately turn out. I still don't see any big benefit for associating with Titan, though.

In closing, I'd like to welcome my old pal Dave Scherer to CHAIRSHOTS. Welcome aboard, pal!

A KNEE TO THE GROIN!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS: "BEHOLD THE SCHLOCKMASTER!"

BY BUTCH BIGELOW

I'm blushing brighter than a mortified Michael Jackson caught redhanded and pants-less with an unconscious, face down - butt up McCauley Caulkin! I don't know about you but I almost lost my lunch with embarrassment while witnessing Fred "The Schlockmaster" Ottman's less than auspicious debut at the August 18 Clash of the Champions. Wham! Bam! Baboom! Man oh man, he went down faster than Arsenio Hall goes down on Magic's Johnson! At that moment, the ol' Slugboat and Buffoon gimmicks didn't seem so lame anymore. I bet he misses the low impact WWF where he would probably be tag teaming with the Smoking Goons or the Sweiner Brothers or some other stiff. There's only one person in the world who's a lousier worker than Ottman - that's my ex-wife, Eileen Dover-Bigelow. There's a joke in the movie **Mad Dog and Glory** that sums up her domestic skills perfectly: "My wife thinks that **Fucking and Cooking are 2 cities in China!**"

Re: READER MAIL, ISSUE 8: Why is it that whenever somebody prefaces a statement with "Now, I'm not a religious fanatic, but..." they are usually religious fanatics? Regarding Scott Teal's (who undoubtedly never got past the above paragraph since I used the word "Fucking") letter in which he expressed a distaste for our heathen usage of offensive language - since when is calling somebody an asshole a sin? What if the person really IS an asshole? Hell, God CREATED assholes! I'm living proof of that! Is it any less of a sin to say "No Butch, you are NOT an asshole!"? That would be swearing AND a lie! There's only one thing worse than a misguided bible thumper - and that's a hypocrite! Maybe poor Scott doesn't have the Jesse St. James version like I do, but the last time I read the bible it was still chock full of "**Smiting**" (slaughtering your enemies by the thousands) and "**Begetting**" (having unprotected sex with teenaged virgins and knocking them up). Scottie baby...lighten up! Aren't Missy Hyatt's scrumptious jugs two of God's greatest creations? Well...come to think of it, perhaps Dow Corning should get half the credit. Bad Example! Anyway, from what I have heard about you, Scott, you used to be directly associated with pro wrestling and were fully aware of all the rampant corruption, drug abuse, promiscuity and homosexuality at the time, yet you still saw fit to accept their dirty, ill gotten money as payment for your services. What did you do with it? Put it in the basket on Sunday morning? Sounds pretty Goddamned hypocritical to me, pally! When I read your comments, all I could think of was something about the jawbone of an ass. It's in the bible. Look it up! Stick with **Prestidigitators for Jesus** or whatever it's called and leave the rasslin' to us!

I was really disappointed with that shameless attention seeker, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, in regard to his callous comments about the senseless murder of Michael Jordan's father. Before it was known that it was a firewater swilling Injun and a colored ghetto punk who did the heinous crime, I had justifiably expected him to indict the entire white race for the crime; but instead he blamed the Mafia acting in retribution for poor Mr. Jordan's alleged (and non-existent) gambling debts. I honestly don't know which irresponsible allegation is worse but I have heard both spouted off by idiot journalists, raving talk show hosts and race baiting minority activists all across the country. They all make me sick! Anyway, in my anger, I called Jesse a few days ago to give him a chance to explain himself and he immediately went into his typical patronizing, bulgy eyed histrionics, culminating in this memorable quote - "**Butch Boogaloo - Ah refutiate yo insinuos!**" Nice diction, Rev! Not only are you a phony, a social parasite and a disgrace but you can't even talk real good American like me!

Being an incurable dyslexic has been a real asset for my journalistic career. For example, here is a little brain teaser for all you simpleminded wrestling fans out there. Take the name of our beloved former president - **RONALD WILSON REAGAN**. Now scramble all the letters. If you reassemble them in the proper order, you get **INSANE ANGLO WARLORD**. Check it out for yourself if you don't believe me! Yes, that's right, Scott - we have survived the Anti-Christ only to be sent straight to hell by an infernal Democratic president and her snivelling, pussy whipped husband!

Quote of the month: On the subject of the now incarcerated Heidi Fleiss - Madame to the Stars, a chick I know quipped "**She may not be in Hollywood anymore, but she's certainly had a lot of Hollywood in HER!**" She also told me she liked **Jurassic Park** except for the dinosaurs. When I heard that Laura Dern doesn't take her shirt off in this film I decided not to bother seeing it.

That's all the people care to know!

CHAIRSHOTS MAILBOX

200 LESLIE DR., APT.717, HALLANDALE FL 33009

CHAIRSHOTS WELCOMES ALL LETTERS, COMMENTS AND
CRITICISMS. ALL LETTERS ARE PRESUMED FOR PUB-
LICATION UNLESS REQUESTED OTHERWISE.

Dear Barry,

I am writing in response to the comments about my sheet, Wrestling-Then & Now, in Jimmy Berley's "Razor's Edge" column in issue #8 of CHAIRSHOTS. For those not familiar with WT&N, we are a monthly newsletter that devotes most of it's space to wrestling's history. I honestly feel that for the most part, the U.S. wrestling of today pales in comparison to that of decades past. Thus, Mr. Berkley may be mistaking legit criticisms of today's product as negativism on my part. If anything, the vast amount of mail I receive indicates the readers are grateful for my eliciting "good memories". I aim for a warm, nostalgic feel and I think that I achieve just that. Where Mr. Berkley gets the impression that my sheet "drips with misery" is beyond me. From what he says, Jimmy has a long history of reading newsletters, continues to read numerous sheets, and worships Dave Meltzer. That's all good and fine, but it doesn't make him an expert on what is involved in putting out a newsletter. When I "whine" about people copying and passing around bootlegs of each and every issue, I'm voicing a problem that smaller sheet editors are faced with. Some people will empathize with the situation, some won't. I'm sure you, as the editor would not be pleased if the reader who showed me this issue, instead told me and all of his friends never to subscribe to CHAIRSHOTS because he'll give us each and every issue. Whining? Maybe. A legitimate gripe-could be. Just for the record, Jimmy Berkley purchased 21 consecutive issues of WT&N before he soured on it. As he didn't have a positive word to say about my sheet, I find this odd. Maybe, just maybe there is something actually of value in there (or else he's just a masochist to keep paying for something he found so unfulfilling). As Jimmy indicates that Barry is his best friend, I have my doubts I'll get a fair say in Chairshots, but we'll see. Anyway, I stand by my publication and will send a freebie to any CHAIRSHOTS reader that hasn't tried WT&N. Just drop me a line and decide for yourselves.

EVAN GINZBURG
PO BOX 640471
OAKLAND GDNS. STATION
FLUSHING, NY 11364

(ED. NOTE: Why you would have "doubts" about getting a fair say in CHAIRSHOTS is beyond my comprehension. Just open any issue and look at the mailbox. Every issue contains opposing views. You got your fair say AND a shameless plug all in a single letter. And, by the way, Jimmy is indeed a masochist, at least according to the girls at Mons Venus.)

Dear Barry,

Ichi Ni San dojo gomen na sai kurosai dojo
Wally Yamaguchi Fumi Saito dojo Wrestle-
marinpiad dojo Vampiro dojo Pilota Suicida
Takano Inoue Cutie Suzuki Jushin Lyger
Satoru Sayama Kobashi Kenta dojo ichiban.
See Bowdren-not EVERY OTHER word I write
is dojo.

Dr. MIKE IANO
SAN FRANCISCO, CA.

Dear Pete Lederberg,

I offer a word of thanks to you. The Dead Kennedys Liberation Army was in search for a good name for our new offshoot group and you provided us with one. "Assholes Anonymous" has that certain sound we were looking for. But listen up Pete, the DKLA has found someone in CHAIRSHOTS who has become even more insufferable than you. Jimmy "Jett" Berkley has looked down upon us hardcores, from his high position of being a former referee, belittling almost everyone who reads newsletters in two of his previous columns. Referring to those who speculate on the demise of WCW, Jimmy called certain letter writers to the sheets "Jerk Off Artists". I am not certain, and don't really care if I'm right, but I believe such people as Dave Meltzer, Jim Cornette, and countless others way higher up on the insider totem pole (which Berkley must have up his ass since he has become such a fool) than lord Jimmy have been guilty of the same thing these "mark readers" have. We may be jerk off artists, but atleast we don't have our noses buried so far up Jerry Lawler's, and anyone else he has ever worked with's, ass that we have to use a flashlight and toilet paper to brush our teeth. If spanking the monkey was an art, Berkley would be the equivalent of a Picasso. He must have stuck several pages of his column together before ever submitting it. I bet he was so proud, Pete! Mr. Lederberg, you are no way out of our thoughts; but if we pay less attention to you as usual, do not take it personal. I'm sure you'll stumble before too long. The DKLA: Righteously Left!

K. FLOURIDE
DKLA HEADQUARTERS

Dear Barry,

I enjoyed issue #7, with the possible exception of Jimmy Berley's column. He really tore into everybody who knocks WCW. I thought he was a little insulting, but he is entitled to his own opinion. Personally, I do NOT want to see WCW discontinue operations. I would like to see them get their act together and stop putting out the 90% crap that they've been dishing out for the last couple of years. Yes, WCW has been getting blasted left and right, but deservedly so. If I was an employee at Jimmy's hotel and kept screwing up repeatedly, wouldn't Jimmy get disgusted at my poor performance? I would think so. Why Jimmy wants to defend WCW is beyond me. Just because some one is critical of WCW, doesn't mean that they are a "mark", or that they're some uneducated, low paying, "blue collar" worker. And, if they are, what's wrong with that? I hope Berkley isn't on some kind of an ego trip. I've talked to him before and he seemed like a decent guy.

DAVID WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND, TENN.

CHAIRSHOTS MAILBOX (CON.)

Dear Barry,

A public statement to the readers of CHAIRSHOTS from DKLA HEADQUARTERS: Though the faithful subscribership of CHAIRSHOTS no doubt got a hearty guffaw at the expense of Scott Teal's naive, prudish, seemingly innocuous attempt at forcing Barry Rose to censor this newsletter under the pretense of "Christian Values", we of the DKLA-the trailblazers of a brave new horizon of intellectualism and principle-have long since learned that things are not always as they seem. Indeed, the DKLA conspiracy task force has, after extensive surveillance, uncovered that Mr. Teal is indeed a diversionary cog in a plot among agents of western based religions to cut into the mighty rock that is free speech & thought and butcher it into an alter of closed, rigid morality and stifled creativity. Hideously enough, these fiends have marked CHAIRSHOTS, the voice of diversity and deviance, as their first target. In its investigation, The DKLA has learned that none other than that hebrew devil, Peter R. Lederberg, is an agent of the forces behind this insidious plot. First, Lederberg attempted to poison readers minds by spewing forth the ranting venom of "political incorrectness." However, due to the noble endeavors of the DKLA, Lederberg was forced to abandon his wicked methods, such as trying to distract and numb creative minds with trivial patter such as Tom Nash's favorite baseball team. Thanks Pete, what's next, Chris Proctor's favorite underwear brand? Rest assured that the DKLA will remain vigilant against Pete's future efforts to retard the public awareness. However, even more shocking is the Christian mastermind behind this whole nefarious plot, none other than Steve Beverly himself!! This smarmy, Pat Robertson like enemy of liberalism has long lobbied to implement his agenda of nonprogressive conformity and strict adherence to convention via the WCW hotline and his Matwatch newsletter. But the recent upsurge of support for the revolutionary ideology promoted in SHOTS has prompted the zealous Beverly to take covert action. It is his hand that pulls the strings controlling the cursed marionette Lederberg, and now it is speculated that Beverly is behind the misinformation fed this sheet in hopes of discrediting it in the eyes of the hardcore

community. By exposing this treachery, we hope to forewarn those reading this against the tactics and intentions of this vicious spirited vicar. Indeed, one shudders to envision a world controlled by the crucifix grasping iron fist of a Steve Beverly-a world where Ric Flair would be celibate by force, lovers would only be able to express sexual pleasure in one (missionary) position, and shhets like CS would be transformed into something like the Milk Drinking And Bible Teaching Gazette. In closing, I suspect we would all have a hell of a lot more fun going to church knowing that Brother Maranville will be passing out Sacramental wine by the flagon, and asking us to open our hymnals and sing along to choirmaster Butch Bigelow.

D.H. PELIGRO
DKLA HEADQUARTERS

Dear Barry,

Here are some late breaking rumors, er, I mean scoops that you just MUST print. 1) Jerry Jarrett turned down the WCW booker position because he recently acquired 51% interest in All Japan Women. Minami Toyota and Toshiyo Yamada, renamed the Tokyo T & A's, will wrestle Miss Texas and Queen Chris Love for the International, Inter Gender Tag Team World Championship, in a loser-films-a-lesbian-hardcore-video match (oops, sorry, Scott!). 2) Scott Teal and Bill Watts will start the Christian Wrestling Association that will feud with Paul E. Dangerously's new group, the Kosher Wrestling Ntework. Headling for CWA will be Tully Blanchard managed by Rev. Slick. Headlining for Paul E. will be Barry Horowitz, Scott Levy as Scotty The Mensch, and veteran Abe Jacobs will act as the commissioner. The big annual PPV, held midway through Christmas and Chanukah, will be called "Wrestling Crusades 1." 3) In Mexico, midget star Espectrito was unmasked by Micro Konaan and revealed to be Dave Meltzer, but nobody recognized him except Konaan. 4) Shoehi Baba has retired and named Jim Cornette as his replacement. Rodney Anoaia will come in as Yokozuna 1, Chris Champion will be Yokozuna 11, and the Yokozunas will have a hair vs. fat match with Kamala 1 & 11. If there's anyone I haven't offended yet, I apologize. Give me time, I'll get to you.

EDDIE GOLDMAN
NYC, NY

CHAIRSHOTS

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Har, David

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